

Flu vaccine . . . when should I get it?

Production of flu vaccine has been delayed this year. Availability is expected to be limited through October, although more vaccine will be available than in previous years.

It is important that people at **high risk of serious complications from flu** or those who **take care of these high-risk people and can spread infection to them** are first to get the available vaccine.

Use this checklist to see whether you are a candidate for immediate vaccination, according to CDC's standards, or should wait.

[Check any that apply . . . If you are not sure about any answer, ask your doctor or clinic staff.]

- ☐ Are you 65 years of age or older?
- ☐ Do you have a chronic medical condition yourself (regardless of your age), such as:
 - ☐ Asthma, or another lung disease?
 - ☐ Heart disease?
 - ☐ Diabetes?
 - ☐ Kidney disease?
 - ☐ Blood disease?
- ☐ Do you have immune system problems caused either by **disease** (e.g., HIV infection or lymphoma) or by **medication** (e.g., chemotherapy or radiation therapy)?
- ☐ Are you a woman who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during flu season (November through April)?
- ☐ Are you a child or teenager (6 months - 18 years of age) who is receiving long-term aspirin therapy?
- ☐ Do you live in, or work in, a nursing home or other chronic care facility where some of the residents have chronic medical conditions?
- ☐ Are you a health-care worker in a hospital, emergency, outpatient, or nursing home setting?
- ☐ Are you a health-care worker who delivers care to high-risk patients in their homes?

If you checked **any** of these, you should get flu vaccine as soon as it is available.

Otherwise, you should wait until November, when vaccine will be more plentiful.

October and November are the optimal months for receiving flu vaccination. However, CDC recommends that vaccination continue through December, January, and beyond – as long as vaccine is available.

